



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

J. DALE GIVENS  
SECRETARY

October 14, 1996

Mr. Elton Lagasse  
Superintendent  
Jefferson Parish School System  
501 Manhattan Blvd.  
Harvey, LA 70058

Dear Mr. Lagasse:

RE: Westbank Asbestos Project Community Meeting

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Office of Public Health to remove asbestos material from properties in the Westbank area. You may recall that these agencies recently held a series of informational meetings at three elementary schools in your district. We would like to extend our appreciation to you and your staff for allowing us to use the schools and for providing assistance in setting up the meetings.

The principals at each school, Ms. Phyllis Benoit from Ames Elementary, Ms. Claire Loch from Westwego Elementary, and Ms. Helen Eppling from William Hart Elementary were all very helpful. We approached them to discuss the use of their schools during the worst possible time, the beginning of the school year. They were all very courteous and willing to help. Your Regional Assistant, Mr. Jerry Sellers was also extremely helpful in obtaining permission for us to use the schools. Additionally, the staff who remained at the schools after hours, helped during the meetings, then closed up behind us, were all courteous and efficient. These people were an invaluable asset to making our meetings with the community run as smoothly as possible.

We also appreciated the facilities we used. Schools are a very important part of a community. Because residents feel comfortable going to local schools for meetings, we were able to furnish a safe, friendly meeting environment. By allowing us to use the schools you provided a valuable community service for the more than 400 citizens that attended the meetings.

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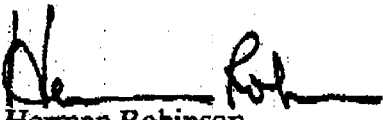
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As we move forward with the Westbank Asbestos removal project, we are committed to keeping the community informed of our progress. We plan to hold community meetings and distribute site updates periodically throughout the project. You will be receiving updates from us; however, if you or your staff have any questions, please call us at (504)765-0370 or (504)765-0102 respectively.

Sincerely,



Herman Robinson

Assistant Secretary

Office of Legal Affairs and Enforcement



Gus Von Bodungen

Assistant Secretary

Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection

cc: Ms. Phyllis Benoit, Ames Elementary School  
Ms. Claire Loch, Westwego Elementary School  
Ms. Helen Eppling, William Hart Elementary School